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24 September 2006

Janet R. Baas, D.Env.
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**RE: Etiwanda Peaker Site, Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly
Status, Protocol Surveys 2003-06 Flight Seasons
USFWS Permit #TE-838743-3**

Janet Baas:

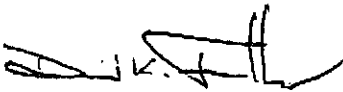
In response to your request for information relating to the current status of the Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly (DSF), *Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*, on the Etiwanda Peaker Site, near the Etiwanda Substation Property, I have reviewed all of the surveys conducted from 2003 through the completion of the 2006 surveys. All results from these surveys were negative for the presence of adult DSF. Although certain survey seasons covered larger areas of the property, all surveys included what is currently called the Etiwanda Peaker Site. This site was originally surveyed for a different Southern California Edison (SCE) project and was known as the Stagecoach Site. Later, the name was changed to the Rancho Vista Site. It is still known by the name Rancho Vista, but also covers the same area as the Etiwanda Peaker Site. A short summary of those results follow.

1. 2003 Protocol Surveys. After completion of a site assessment, surveys were conducted from 20 July to 20 September in compliance with USFWS protocols on 60 acres of potential DSF habitat. The entire survey area was referred to as the SCE Stagecoach Property and a report was submitted to both the Service and to Bioresource Consultants. Results were negative.
2. 2004 Protocol Surveys. Surveys were initiated from 1 July through 20 September, as recommended by the Service, for the presence/absence of DSF adults. Results were negative for DSF adults. The Stagecoach Property was reduced to about 48 acres and included what is also referred to as the Peaker Site. Reports were again submitted to the Service and Bioresource Consultants.
3. 2005 Protocol Surveys. Again, surveys were conducted from 1 July through 20 September for DSF adults. Results were again negative for the presence of this insect and reports were submitted to the Service and directly to Southern California Edison. The 48 acre site was referred to as the Rancho Vista Property (Stagecoach/Etiwanda) which included the previously named Peaker site.



4. 2006 Protocol Surveys. The final report has yet to be submitted but the results were again negative for the presence of DSF adults. The site is still referred to as the Ranch Vista Property and includes all of the 48 acres surveyed in the previous three adult flight seasons.

The northern and western areas of the property (Portion A on the attached map) contains habitat that could support populations of DSF including suitable sandy soils, plants such as buckwheat, croton, and telegraph weed that are associated with existing DSF sites, along with many native insects that have been recorded in occupied DSF habitats. Sections of the property change from year to year as a result of rainfall, weedy introductions such as mustard that obscure exposed soils, and some human impacts that increase or reduce the suitability of the property for this insect. The southeast section of the property (Portion B on the attached map) contains a few suitable habitats, again with buckwheat, telegraph weed, croton, and exposed sandy soils along the dirt roads and limited natural drainages. However, most of this section has been disturbed leaving compacted soils, some with gravel, and closed-in areas of mustard, jojoba, tree tobacco, and mesquite. Surveys were adjusted to take advantage of the most favorable sites that would attract or support DSF adults. A map is attached to show the area surveyed. After four seasons of protocol surveys, this insect has yet to be encountered. It is doubtful that the property currently supports a population of the DSF.



David K. Faulkner
Entomologist